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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**SELECT MILWAUKEE OPENS NEW DOORS ON HOMEOWNERSHIP**

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin – August 1, 2013* – Select Milwaukee celebrated its move to Historic Concordia with a well-attended Open House and the release of two new studies demonstrating its economic impact on homeownership in the Greater Milwaukee community.

Results of a comprehensive assessment of the economic impact of Select Milwaukee's work shows that since 2006, Select Milwaukee has been responsible for over \$42.6 million in economic activity as a result of its operations. On an annual basis, the organization sustains over 54 jobs. An independent analysis of its mortgage loan performance concludes the foreclosure rate of over 2,300 Select Milwaukee homebuyers dating back to 1996 is 2% below the rate for all Milwaukee County homebuyers and 8% under the national average. "This research shows Select Milwaukee customers are more successful homeowners and are well-prepared for the responsibilities and challenges of homeownership," says Raymond Schmidt, Executive Director.

"We strive to remain responsive to the marketplace and the needs of current and aspiring Milwaukee homeowners," said Schmidt. "Our new home enables us to continue to serve the community with excellent building and parking accessibility, a larger educational facility for workshops on home buying, owning a home and financial literacy, and greater privacy for our customers to meet one-on-one with our certified homeownership counselors."

State Representative Evan Goyke added, "There is no greater addition to any neighborhood than a home owner. With the help of groups like Select Milwaukee, we are seeing boards come down, neighbors move in, and neighborhoods strengthen and thrive. I am proud to support Select Milwaukee's hard work and to welcome them to the Concordia neighborhood!" Select Milwaukee is among organizations slated for resources to tackle the city's foreclosure challenges.

With support from the Zilber Foundation, Select Milwaukee will expand service delivery this fall to the Near South Side with a dedicated Homeownership Specialist located in the Clarke Square and Layton Boulevard West neighborhoods.

Select Milwaukee is located at 3215 West State Street, Suite 200 (Bgemagen Building), call 414-562-5070, email [info@selectmilwaukee.org](mailto:info@selectmilwaukee.org), or visit [www.selectmilwaukee.org](http://www.selectmilwaukee.org).



Select Milwaukee Open House Ribbon Cutting (Photo courtesy of Dave La Haye) Left to right: State Representative Evan Goyke, Eugene Manzanet, PNC Bank Vice President Community Development, Gwendolyn Dansby, Associated Bank Vice President Community Affairs/Community Reinvestment Act Officer, David Stockdale (back), Manager/Bookkeeper Select Milwaukee, Raymond Schmidt, Executive Director Select Milwaukee, Irma Yopez Klassen, Associate Director Select Milwaukee, Barbara Wanzo (back), Director of Business Development and Marketing Select Milwaukee, Melford Ferguson, Relationship Manager NeighborWorks America, Jennifer Gonda, City of Milwaukee Department of Administration Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Board Chair Select Milwaukee, Ian Bautista, President of United Neighborhood Centers of America (UNCA) and Select Milwaukee Board Vice Chair.

### **About Select Milwaukee**

Since 1991, Select Milwaukee has been a trusted resource for homeownership services – advocacy and counseling for home buying and financing, home renovation, financial literacy, mortgage loan modification and foreclosure prevention. Over the past seven years, our work has resulted in 1,152 new homeowners, 378 homeowners saved from imminent foreclosure, 349 home purchases combining rehab and energy efficient improvements, 400 jobs created and/or sustained and \$42 million in total economic impact on Milwaukee. The organization has a national reputation for its Employer Assisted Homeownership (EAH) fringe benefit program. Select Milwaukee is a top-rated “exemplary” chartered member of the NeighborWorks® America network and HUD-approved counseling organization. Select Milwaukee enriches the lives of families and strengthens neighborhoods.

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